

Determination of Actions Required Under Component 2 of the 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion
March 4, 2010

The Service has determined that OMR flows be no more negative than -5,000 cfs on a 14-day average (no more negative than -6,250 cfs on a 5-day average), as allowed under the RPA. If the threshold of concern is reached (92 expanded salvage), the Service has determined that OMR flow be no more negative than -2000 cfs on a 14-day average (no more negative than -2,500 cfs on a 5-day average). These actions are being taken under Component 2, Action 3 of the RPA.

The Smelt Working Group (SWG) met on March 4, 2010 to discuss recent information of delta smelt salvage at the water projects. Salvage since March 1, 2010 is 24 adult delta smelt. Cumulative take of adults is now 72 and the concern level is 92. The 2008 OCAP Biological Opinion re-initiation level is 123 adults. The SWG recommended provisional OMR flows dependent upon the occurrence of additional salvage: If the concern level is reached or three adult delta smelt are taken in salvage in a single day, then adjust OMR flows to no more negative than -2000 cfs. This recommendation is based upon the proximity to the concern level and the taking of pre-spawning females at the export facilities. The Service expects that due to the requirement to provide 48 hours notice to the court, modifications to pumping will begin after 8am on Sunday, March 7, 2010.

The Working Group will continue to monitor salvage, survey data, and hydrological conditions and reconvene March 8 to discuss the potential to modify the recommendation.